

Message Text

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64

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 DODE-00 L-03 NASA-01 NSC-05

OES-03 ACDA-05 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /034 W

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R 240125Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9798

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, OTRA, TSPA, NZ

SUBJECT: GEOS-3

REF: STATE 144449

1. EMBASSY REQUESTING GNZ APPROVAL FOR GEOS-3 OBSERVATION PROGRAM. WE ARE UNABLE TO PREDICT WHEN WE MAY EXPECT REPLY, BUT IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN WE WILL BE ASKED FOR MORE DEFINITIVE INFORMATION BEFORE DECISION IS MADE. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT EXPEDITE DECISION.

2. UNOFFICIAL SOUNDINGS WITH DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (DSIR) AND DEFENSE SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENT (DSE) PERSONNEL INDICATE SOME INTEREST IN PROGRAM BUT ALSO SOME CONCERN OVER PROBLEMS OF SITING REQUIREMENTS AND POSSIBLE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS. EMBASSY SHARES THESE CONCERNS. REFTEL GIVES NO INDICATION AS TO WHO IS EXPECTED INSURE SITING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. DSE HAS NO PERSONNEL IN INVERCARGILL AND DSIR VERY THINLY SPREAD IN THAT AREA. AS A RESULT WE BELIEVE DOD SHOULD BE PREPARED CARRY OUT ITS OWN SITE SURVEY IF PROJECT APPROVED BY GNZ.

3. POLITICALLY, QUESTION OF DOD FINANCED/MANNED PROJECTS IN NEW ZEALAND IS SENSITIVE ISSUE AND IT IS POSSIBLE LEFT WING OF LABOUR PARTY WILL VOICE STRONG

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OBJECTIONS. WITH NATIONAL ELECTIONS DUE TO TAKE

PLACE IN NOVEMBER AT LEATEST, GOVERNMENT WILL WANT TO
WEIGH CAREFULLY POLITICAL IMPACT OF ITS DICESION.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, EMBASSY DOES NOT EXPECT
DECISIONTO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE PROJECT WILL BE
ROUTINE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR US TO HAVE SOME
INDICATION AS TO JUST HOW DOD EXPECTS TO ACCOMPLISH
SITING REQUIREMENTS SURVEY. ALSO, POLITICAL QUESTION
WILL BE EASIER TO DEFUSE IF EMBASSY HAS DETAILED
INFORMATION CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES TO WHICH
RESULTS OF STUDY WILL BE PUT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), SATELLITES, SPACECRAFT TRACKING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975WELLIN01741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750221-0979
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750619/aaaaarii.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 144449
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GEOS-3
TAGS: MARR, TSPA, PGOV, US, NZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006